ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A collapsible filter element for a transcatheter embolic protection device comprises a collapsible filter body which is movable between a collapsed stored position for movement through a vascular system and an expanded position for extension across a blood vessel such that blood passing through the blood vessel is delivered through the filter element. A proximal inlet portion of the filter body has one or more inlet openings sized to allow blood and embolic material enter the filter body and a distal outlet portion of the filter body has a plurality of outlet openings sized to allow through-passage of blood, but to retain embolic material within the filter body. The filter body is at least partially of laminate construction comprising a membrane coated with a coating which is biocompatible, the thickness of the coating being from 4% to 40% of the thickness of the membrane. The coating may be of hydrophilic material. To facilitate retrieval of captured embolic material the distal portion and/or an intermediate portion of the filter membrane may be stretchable. The filter body may have regions of varying hardness or stiffness.

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